

# Water Watch



June 2009



## Level 2 Drought Alert Declared

On May 12, the Carlsbad Municipal Water District joined the San Diego County Water Authority and declared a Level 2 Drought Alert, implementing mandatory water cutbacks. The new mandatory water use restrictions for residents and businesses in Carlsbad will go into effect on July 1. Water deliveries to the Carlsbad Municipal Water District will be reduced due to long term drought conditions along the Colorado River and legal restrictions on water that comes from Northern California. These two sources make up about 90 percent of the region's water supply and 100 percent of the Carlsbad Municipal Water District's supply.

Thank you for your water conservation efforts so far to meet our water restriction goals.

### Level 2 Drought Alert - Mandatory Water Use Restrictions Starting July 1

#### Irrigation

- Landscape irrigation is limited to no more than three assigned days a week from July through October (does not apply to commercial growers or nurseries):

#### New Watering Schedule

- Homes with odd-numbered addresses: Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday
- Homes with even-numbered addresses: Saturday, Monday & Wednesday
- Apartments, condos and businesses: Monday, Wednesday & Friday

- Limit lawn watering and landscape irrigation with sprinklers to no more than 10 minutes a station, per assigned day (this does not apply to systems using water efficient devices, such as drip irrigation).
- Irrigate landscape before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. only.
- Stop water waste from inefficient landscape irrigation, such as runoff, overspray and misdirected sprinklers.
- Use a bucket or a hose with a shutoff nozzle when watering landscaped areas with no irrigation system.

#### Washing

- No washing down of hard surfaces, such as driveways, patios, sidewalks and parking lots with a hose, unless necessary to remove safety or sanitation hazards.
- If washing a vehicle at home, use a bucket and hose equipped with a shutoff nozzle.

#### Fountains

- Stop operating decorative fountains unless they use reclaimed water.

#### Carlsbad Municipal Water District Drought Condition

##### Level 4 - Emergency

**Mandatory** Water Conservation  
More than 40% Reduction

##### Level 3 - Critical

**Mandatory** Water Conservation  
Up to 40% Reduction

Starting  
7/1/09

##### Level 2 - Alert

**Mandatory** Water Conservation  
Up to 20% Reduction

We Are  
Here

##### Level 1 - Watch

**Voluntary** Water Conservation  
Up to 10% Reduction

*Mandatory restrictions continued on next page.*



## Leaks

- Repair all water leaks within 72 hours of notification by the water district.

## Restaurants and Hotels

- Serve water in restaurants only on request.
- Offer hotel guests the option of not laundering towels and linens daily.

## Protecting Plants During Mandatory Water Cutbacks

Try these tips from the California Landscape Contractors Association to preserve plants while adhering to the new mandated water cutbacks.

- Take care of trees. Shading keeps surrounding temperatures cooler and reduces irrigation needed for surrounding plants.
- Drill several 4-inch wide holes about 24-30 inches deep around the base of the tree, being careful to not damage the roots. Fill with compost to help water reach tree roots.
- Mow lawns higher (3-3.5 inches) and less frequently to promote deeper root growth and hold more moisture. Do not take off more than 25 percent when mowing.
- Set sprinkler timers to run half the normal time and run a second cycle a half hour or hour later. This will dramatically reduce runoff. Average time should be fewer than five minutes per cycle.
- Prune in the winter only and don't use high nitrogen fertilizer. Pruning and fertilizers stimulate growth, which needs more water. Existing growth also provides shade to the soil, helping to retain moisture.

For more information, visit [www.clca.org/clca/about/consumer/drought](http://www.clca.org/clca/about/consumer/drought)



*Heavy mulching keeps water in the soil.*

## The City of Carlsbad Is Conserving

The City of Carlsbad has taken several steps to save water, including an extensive recycled water system that provides water to parks, plants in street medians and other landscaping. The city uses artificial turf on athletic fields at Stagecoach, Aviara, Poinsettia and Pine Avenue parks.

Seawater desalination will be another way Carlsbad conserves imported water. Carlsbad officials have been working for 10 years to secure this locally controlled, sustainable water supply. The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board has unanimously approved the Carlsbad Desalination Project, which means the project has cleared all the regulatory hurdles needed to start construction. When complete in late 2011, the plant will supply the Carlsbad Municipal Water District with the majority of its drinking water. Under a contract with the plant's owner, Poseidon Resources Corp., the water district will never pay more for the desalinated water than the current price of imported water from the San Diego County Water Authority.



## Sign up to Receive Water Supply News

Sign up for updates and visit the water district's Web site at [www.carlsbadca.gov/water](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/water) or call **760-438-2722** for more information and conservation tips.